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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provided for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>Patent &amp; Trademark Office</i>	<i>Application Number</i>	09/614,524
	<i>Filing Date</i>	07/12/02
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	SATO, Masahiko
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	SEP 15 2004 2651
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	FABER, Alan
	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	450100-02614

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

**1. Submission required under CFR 1.114.**

- a.  Previously submitted
  - i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on 01/22/04  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
  - i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

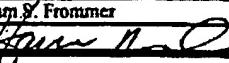
- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.
- b.  A check in the amount of \$ 770.00 is enclosed for the following:
  - i.  \$770.00 for RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
  - ii.  \$0.00 for Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17): This is a petition to request a \_\_\_\_\_ -month extension of time.
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**RECEIVED**

SEP 22 2004

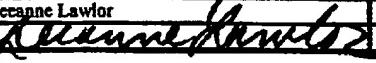
Technology Center 2600

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	William S. Frommer	Registration No.	25,506
Signature		Hans R. Mahr, Reg. No. 46,138 for William S. Frommer	Date 02/12/04

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name (Print/Type)	Lecanne Lawlor	"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.	ER 502446960 US
Signature		Date	February 12, 2004

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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES and completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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